

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-19 stand rejected.

This application continues to include claims 1-19.

Claims 1-9, 12-14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Marple, U.S. Patent No. 1,887,655. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-9, 12-14, and 16-19 in view of the following.

Marple is directed to the mounting of a handle for an automobile door latch (page 1, lines 3-5). A handle 11 includes a recess 12 adapted to receive the end of a stub shaft 8 (page 1, lines 56-58). A spring detent in the form of a split ring 17 is installed in an arcuate groove 18 formed in an annular wall 13 of handle 11 (page 1, lines 83-86). One end 20 of ring 17 is bent inward to engage an annular groove 21 located on stub shaft 8, securing handle 11 from longitudinal movement relative to stub shaft 8 (page 1, line 86 to page 2, line 2, Figs. 1 and 3).

Applicant believes that claims 1-9, 12-14, and 16-19 patentably define Applicant's invention over Marple for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to a handle set. Claim 1 recites, in part, a liner body having an insert opening; and a handle assembly having an insert member that is inserted into said insert opening, said insert member having an outer surface, a bore, and a perimetrical groove formed in said outer surface extending around a perimeter of said outer surface, said perimetrical groove extending to said bore at least at one location.

In contrast to claim 1, Marple discloses a handle 11 that includes a recess 12 adapted to receive the end of a stub shaft 8 (page 1, lines 56-58). The Marple stub shaft 8 is received directly into the handle 11 (fig. 1), without any intermediary structure such as the insert member of claim 1. Marple simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest an insert member, as

recited in claim 1. In addition, rather than a perimetrical groove of an insert member, as recited in claim 1, Marple discloses that arcuate groove 18 is formed in an annular wall 13 of handle 11 (page 1, lines 83-86, Fig. 1), and that annular groove 21 is located on stub shaft 8 (page 1, lines 93-95, Figs. 1 and 3). Thus neither of the Marple grooves 18 and 21 are located in an insert member. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest a liner body having an insert opening or a handle assembly having an insert member, the insert member having a bore and a perimetrical groove, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, claim 1 recites a spindle assembly including a spindle shaft configured for insertion into said bore of said insert member. As set forth above, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest an insert member. Nor does Marple disclose, teach, or suggest that stub shaft 8 is configured for insertion into the bore of an insert member. Rather, as depicted in Fig. 1, stub shaft 8 is configured for insertion into recess 12 of handle 11. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest a spindle shaft configured for insertion into the bore of the insert member, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 also recites, among other things, a retaining ring received in said perimetrical groove. Although Marple discloses a split ring 17, the split ring 17 is not received in a perimetrical groove of an *insert member*, but rather, is received into an arcuate groove 18 formed in an annular wall 13, with one end 20 bent inward to engage annular groove 21 of stub shaft 8, (page 1, lines 83-97, Figs. 1 and 3). Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest a retaining ring received in the perimetrical groove, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 further recites said spindle assembly including a stop member extending outwardly from said spindle shaft, said stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface, said spindle shaft being mounted to said insert member by sliding said spindle shaft

in a first direction into said bore, said stop member being configured such that said stop surface engages said retaining ring to resist removal of said spindle shaft from said bore when said spindle shaft is moved in a second direction opposite to said first direction.

In contrast to a stop member extending outwardly from stub shaft 8, Marple discloses an annular groove 21 that retains stub shaft 8 via a split ring 17. For example, one end 20 of ring 17 is bent inward to engage an annular groove 21 located on stub shaft 8, securing handle 11 from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 (page 1, line 86 to page 2, line 2, Figs. 1 and 3). Thus, handle 11 is *stopped* from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 by annular groove 21, which acts as a stop member, in conjunction with split ring 17. It is clear that annular groove 21, corresponding generally to a stop member, extends inward from the surface of stub shaft 8 (Fig. 1), rather than extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 1.

In addition annular groove 21 does not include a ramped surface, such as the ramped surface of the stop member, as recited in claim 1. Rather, in order to permit assembly, Marple discloses a beveled wall 22. However, the beveled wall 22 is not a part of annular groove 21, and hence, is not a part of a stop member. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest a spindle assembly including a stop member extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, the stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface, the spindle shaft being mounted to the insert member by sliding the spindle shaft in a first direction into the bore, the stop member being configured such that the stop surface engages the retaining ring to resist removal of the spindle shaft from the bore when the spindle shaft is moved in a second direction opposite to the first direction, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 1 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 2-8 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 1. In addition, claims 2-8 further and patentably define the invention over Marple.

For example, claim 3 is directed to the handle set of claim 1, wherein said bore of said insert member having a passage for receiving said stop member. As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Marple simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest an insert member. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the bore of the insert member has a passage for receiving the stop member, as recited in claim 3. Claim 3 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 6 is directed to the handle set of claim 1, further comprising a lock mechanism configured for connection to said spindle shaft, said lock mechanism including a housing, said housing including a shaft opening having a clearance notch formed therein to facilitate passing said stop member of said spindle shaft through said lock mechanism as said spindle shaft is received in said shaft opening.

The Examiner asserts that Marple elements 4 and 5 are a lock mechanism. In contrast to a lock mechanism, the Marple elements 4 and 5 are clearly identified as a casing 4 that contains the Marple operating mechanism that is permanently attached to a plate 5 (page 1, lines 38-40). Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest that casing 4 and plate 5 are also a locking mechanism. On the contrary, Marple discloses that projecting from the casing is stub shaft 8 having a serrated head 9 which is connected to an arm 10 *to be linked with the door*

lock proper. Thus, Marple distinguishes casing 4 and plate 5 from the “*door lock proper*”, which known in the art to be a lock mechanism within the context of automobile door latches (page 1, lines 1-5). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Marple elements 4 and 5 are not a lock mechanism, as recited in claim 6.

In addition, Marple simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest any details of “the door lock proper”, much less details that would indicate that the “door lock proper” includes a housing that includes a shaft opening having a clearance notch formed therein to facilitate the passage of a stop member of the stub shaft 8 through the door lock proper. Although casing 4 and plate 5 are depicted as having openings to receive stub shaft 8, the Marple disclosure, including the drawings, does not disclose, teach, or suggest a clearance notch formed in such openings. Also, as set forth above, casing 4 and plate 5 are not a lock mechanism, and hence, any asserted clearance notch is thus not a clearance notch in a shaft opening of a housing of a lock mechanism, as recited in claim 6.

Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 6. Claim 6 is thus believed allowable in its own right.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1 or claims 2-8, depending therefrom, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 9 is directed to a spindle assembly for a handle set. Claim 9 recites, in part, a stop member extending outwardly from said spindle shaft, said stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface. For substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Marple does not disclose, teach, or

suggest a stop member *extending outwardly from the spindle shaft*, the stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface, as recited in claim 9.

Claims 12-14 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 1. In addition, claims 12-14 further and patentably define the invention over Marple.

For example, claim 12 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 9, further comprising a limit member extending outwardly from said spindle shaft, said limit member being spaced from said stop member. In contrast to claim 12, Marple discloses that one end 20 of ring 17 is bent inward to engage an annular groove 21 located on stub shaft 8, securing handle 11 from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 (page 1, line 86 to page 2, line 2, Figs. 1 and 3). Thus, the Marple feature corresponding to a limit member is annular groove 21, which extends inwardly from the spindle shaft. Accordingly, claim 12 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 13 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 9, said lock mechanism including a housing, said housing including a shaft opening with a clearance notch formed to facilitate passing said stop member of said spindle shaft through said lock mechanism as said spindle shaft is received in said shaft opening. Claim 13 is believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 6.

Claim 14 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 13, further comprising a limit member spaced from said stop member, a portion of said housing of said lock mechanism being maintained between said stop member and said limit member. As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Marple simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest any details of “the door lock proper”, and hence, does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the “door lock proper”

includes a housing, a portion of which is maintained between the stop member and the limit member, as recited in claim 14. Accordingly, claim 14 is believed allowable in its own right. In addition, claim 14 is believed allowable due to its dependence upon otherwise allowable base claim 13.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 9 or claims 12-14, depending therefrom, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 16 is directed to a handle set. Claim 16 recites, in part, a liner body having an insert opening; a handle assembly having an insert member that is inserted into said insert opening, said insert member having an outer surface, a bore, and a perimetrical groove formed in said outer surface extending around a perimeter of said outer surface, said perimetrical groove extending to said bore at least at one location; and a spindle assembly including a spindle shaft configured for insertion into said bore of said insert member, said spindle shaft being mounted to said insert member by sliding said spindle shaft in a first direction into said bore. For substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest a liner body having an insert opening or a handle assembly having an insert member, the insert member having a bore and a perimetrical groove, or a spindle shaft configured for insertion into the bore of the insert member, as recited in claim 16.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 16, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 17 is directed to a method of assembling a handle set. Claim 17 recites, in part, providing a liner body having an insert opening; and providing a handle assembly having an insert member, said insert member having an outer surface, a bore, and a perimetrical groove formed in said outer surface extending around a perimeter of said outer surface, said perimetrical groove extending to said bore at least at one location, and inserting said insert member into said insert opening.

In contrast to claim 17, Marple discloses a handle 11 that includes a recess 12 adapted to receive the end of a stub shaft 8 (page 1, lines 56-58). The Marple stub shaft 8 is received directly into the handle 11 (fig. 1), without any intermediary structure such as the insert member of claim 17. Marple simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest an insert member, as recited in claim 1. In addition, rather than a perimetrical groove formed in the outer surface of an insert member, as recited in claim 17, Marple discloses that arcuate groove 18 is formed in an annular wall 13 of handle 11 (page 1, lines 83-86, Fig. 1), and that annular groove 21 is located on stub shaft 8 (page 1, lines 93-95, Figs. 1 and 3). Thus neither of the Marple grooves 18 and 21 are located in an insert member. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest providing a liner body having an insert opening, providing a handle assembly having an insert member, the insert member having a bore and a perimetrical groove, and inserting the insert member into the insert opening, as recited in claim 17.

Claim 17 also recites mounting a retaining ring in the perimetrical groove. In contrast, Marple discloses that a spring detent in the form of a split ring 17 is installed in an arcuate groove 18 formed in an annular wall 13 of handle 11 (page 1, lines 83-86). One end 20 of ring 17 is bent inward to engage an annular groove 21 located on stub shaft 8, securing handle 11 from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 (page 1, line 86 to page 2, line 2, Figs. 1

and 3). Thus, rather than mounting a retaining ring in a perimetrical groove of an insert member, Marple discloses that split ring 17 is installed in a groove formed in the handle 11.

Claim 17 further recites providing a spindle assembly including a spindle shaft, said spindle assembly including a stop member extending outwardly from said spindle shaft, said stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface.

In contrast to a stop member extending outwardly from stub shaft 8, Marple discloses an annular groove 21 that retains stub shaft 8 via a split ring 17. For example, one end 20 of ring 17 is bent inward to engage an annular groove 21 located on stub shaft 8, securing handle 11 from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 (page 1, line 86 to page 2, line 2, Figs. 1 and 3). Thus, handle 11 is stopped from longitudinal movement relative to shaft 8 by annular groove 21, which acts as a stop member, in conjunction with split ring 17. It is clear that annular groove 21, corresponding generally to a stop member, extends inward from the surface of stub shaft 8 (Fig. 1), rather than extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 17.

In addition annular groove 21 does not include a ramped surface, such as the ramped surface of the stop member, as recited in claim 17. Rather, in order to permit assembly, Marple discloses a beveled wall 22. However, the beveled wall 22 is not a part of annular groove 21, and hence, is not a part of a stop member. Accordingly, Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest providing a spindle assembly including a spindle shaft, the spindle assembly including a stop member extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, the stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface, as recited in claim 17.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 17. Claim 17 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 18 and 19 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 17.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Marple does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-9, 12-14, and 16-19, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-9, 12-14, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Solliday, U.S. Patent No. 1,862,716. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9-14 in view of the following.

Solliday is directed to a latch bolt operating means which automatically compensates for doors having different thickness (page 1, lines 1-12). At the outer side of a door, a key operated lock mechanism is housed within a housing 7 and includes a tongue 8 that extends into a longitudinal opening 5 within a barrel 4 (page 1, lines 70-74, Fig. 1). At the inner portion of the door, a cylindrical body includes an inner portion 15 and a cylindrical opening 16, and includes a transverse slot 17 cut through inner portion 15 and across opening 16 (page 1, line 93 to page 2, line 6, Figs. 1 and 4). A flat metal member 19 includes a projecting tongue 8 that enters opening 5 of barrel 4, and lateral lugs 22 to engage transverse slot 17 that extend outwardly so that a ring 23 is in their path of movement and thus stops their movement (page 2, lines 7-25, Figs. 1, 4, and 5). Member 19 moves longitudinally inward against a spring 18 to accommodate doors of different thickness (page 2, lines 55-61).

Applicant believes that claims 9-14 patentably define Applicant's invention over Solliday for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 9 is directed to a spindle assembly. Claim 9 recites, among other things, a spindle shaft; and a lock mechanism configured for connection to said spindle shaft. The Examiner asserts that Solliday elements 13 and 15 disclose a spindle shaft. Assuming arguendo that Solliday elements 13 and 15 disclose a spindle shaft, in contrast to a lock mechanism configured for connection to the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 9, Solliday discloses that a key operated lock mechanism is housed within a housing 7 and includes a tongue 8 that extends into a longitudinal opening 5 within a barrel 4 (page 1, lines 70-74, Fig. 1). Solliday does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the lock mechanism is configured for connection to elements 13 and 15, but rather, illustrates in Fig. 1 that the lock mechanism does not even contact elements 13 and 15. Nor does Solliday disclose, teach, or suggest any particular structural or functional features of the lock mechanism as would constitute the lock mechanism being configured for connection to elements 13 and 15. Rather, Solliday merely discloses that tongue 8 extends into an opening in barrel 4. Accordingly, Solliday does not disclose, teach, or suggest a lock mechanism configured for connection to the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 9.

Claim 9 also recites a stop member extending outwardly from said spindle shaft, said stop member including a ramped surface and a stop surface. The Examiner asserts that Solliday elements 13 and 15 disclose a spindle shaft, and that element 19 discloses a stop member. In contrast to a spindle shaft and a stop member extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 9, Solliday discloses a cylindrical body having an outer end portion 13, an inner portion 15, a cylindrical opening 16, and a transverse slot 17 cut through

inner portion 15 and across opening 16 (page 1, line 93 to page 2, line 6, Figs. 1 and 4). A flat metal member 19 includes a projecting tongue 20 that enters opening 5 of barrel 4, and lateral lugs 22 to engage transverse slot 17 (page 2, lines 7-25, Figs. 1, 4, and 5). Thus, flat metal member 19 engages barrel 4 on one side, and engages the cylindrical body via lateral lugs 22 on the other side. However, Solliday does not disclose, teach, or suggest that flat metal member 19 extends outwardly from the cylindrical body, but rather, discloses that flat metal member 19 extends *longitudinally* from the cylindrical body. Thus, assuming *arguendo* that outer end portion 13 and inner portion 15 of the cylindrical body is a spindle shaft, it is clear that flat metal member 19 does not disclose, teach, or suggest a stop member extending outwardly from the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 9.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Solliday does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 9 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 10-14 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 9. In addition, claims 10-14 further and patentably define the invention over Solliday.

For example, claim 10 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 9, wherein said ramped surface angularly extends outwardly from an outer surface of said spindle shaft and terminates at said stop surface. Solliday simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest that flat metal member 19 includes a ramped surface that angularly extends outwardly from an outer surface of the spindle shaft and terminates at said stop surface. Rather, the angled portions of flat metal member 19 extend inwardly, away from outer end portion 13 and inner portion 15 of the cylindrical body that are asserted to be a spindle shaft. In addition, the angled portions

extend from an outer surface of flat metal member 19 itself, as opposed extending from an outer surface of the asserted spindle shaft. Accordingly, claim 10 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 13 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 9, said lock mechanism including a housing, said housing including a shaft opening with a clearance notch formed to facilitate passing said stop member of said spindle shaft through said lock mechanism as said spindle shaft is received in said shaft opening. In contrast to claim 13, Solliday clearly does not disclose, teach, or suggest the lock mechanism housing 7 including a shaft opening with a clearance notch formed to facilitate passing the asserted stop member, flat metal member 19, or the asserted spindle shaft, outer end portion 13 and inner portion 15 of the cylindrical body, through the lock mechanism as the asserted spindle shaft is received in the shaft opening. Rather, the asserted stop member, flat metal member 19, and the asserted spindle shaft, outer end portion 13 and inner portion 15 of the cylindrical body, are installed on the opposite side of the Solliday latch bolt from the lock mechanism, housed in housing 7 (Fig. 1). Accordingly, claim 13 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 14 is directed to the spindle assembly of claim 13, further comprising a limit member spaced from said stop member, a portion of said housing of said lock mechanism being maintained between said stop member and said limit member. The Examiner asserts that Solliday element 14 discloses a limit member. Solliday Figs. 1-5 make clear that no portion of lock mechanism housing 7 of the Solliday lock mechanism is maintained between the asserted stop member, flat metal member 19, and the asserted limit member, intermediate portion 14 of the cylindrical body. Accordingly, claim 14 is believed allowable in its own right.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Solliday does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 9-14, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 9-11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gater, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,672,829. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9-11 and 15 in view of the following.

Gater, et al. is directed to a knob assembly for door latches and, more particularly, to such an assembly having an improved free knob rotation which freely rotates when locked, or an improved front end loading which permits simple lock changing, or both (col. 1, lines 14-18). Gater, et al. discloses a half-round spindle 80 extending slightly over halfway into a door 34 for acting with a latch driving mechanism 36 (col. 5, lines 53-57). Half-round spindle 80 has a leg 82 bent outwardly into interference with a cylinder retaining sleeve 62 (col. 5, lines 58-60). A stop spacer 86 limits the entry of half-round spindle 80 into cylinder retaining sleeve 62 (Figs. 7 and 8). Gater, et al. also discloses a lock assembly 64 that includes a lock cylinder 102 and a lock plug 108 which projects slightly inwardly of the lock cylinder (col. 6, lines 17-21, Figs. 7 and 8). The lock cylinder and plug 102 and 108 are held in position relative to each other and are secured within cylinder retaining sleeve 62 by a retaining collar 110, which is retained against axial movement by engagement in a retaining slot 162 of the lock plug 108 against the inner edge of the lock cylinder 102 and behind a depression 112 formed outwardly within the cylinder retaining sleeve 62 (col. 6, lines 21-29, Figs. 7-9).

Applicants believe that claims 9-11 and 15 patentably define Applicant's invention over Gater, et al., for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 9 is directed to a spindle assembly for a handle set. Claim 9 recites, among other things, a spindle shaft; and a lock mechanism configured for connection to said spindle shaft. Applicants respectfully submit that Gater, et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest a lock mechanism configured for connection to the spindle shaft. In rejecting claim 9, the Examiner asserts that Gater, et al. element 80 is a spindle shaft, and that Gater, et al. element 102 is part of a lock mechanism.

In contrast to a lock mechanism configured for connection to the spindle shaft, Gater, et al. discloses that half-round spindle 80 is engaged with cylinder retaining sleeve 62 (col. 5, lines 58-60), and that stop spacer 86 limits the entry of half-round spindle 80 into cylinder retaining sleeve 62 (Figs. 7 and 8). Gater, et al., also discloses that lock cylinder 102 and lock plug 108 of lock assembly 64 are held in position relative to each other and are secured within the cylinder retaining sleeve 62 by a retaining collar 110 (col. 6, lines 17-24, Figs. 7-9). From Figs. 7-9, it is clear that retaining collar 110 retains lock assembly 64, including lock cylinder 102 and lock plug 108, from moving toward or contacting half-round spindle shaft 80, and stop spacer 86 stops half-round spindle shaft 80 from moving toward or contacting lock cylinder 102 or lock plug 108. Thus, there is no joining of lock cylinder 102 or lock plug 108 with half-round spindle shaft 80 as might be referred to as a connection. In addition, neither the Gater, et al specification or drawings disclose, teach, or suggest that any features or elements of lock assembly 64 are adapted or configured in any way for connection to half-round spindle shaft 80. Accordingly, Gater, et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest a lock mechanism configured for connection to the spindle shaft, as recited in claim 9.

Claims 10, 11, and 15 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 9.

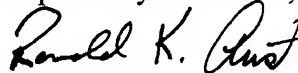
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Gater, et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 9-11 and 15, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter of the appended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,



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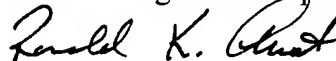
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